

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02

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R 220138Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2763

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

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E O 11652 N A

TAGS ELAB, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN UNIONS APPROVE WAGE INDEXATION DECISION

1. AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AT
END OF THIRD DAY OF QUARTERLY MEETING, MAY 22ND, ADOPTED
RESOLUTION CALLING ON GOA TO NATIONALISE OIL INDUSTRY.
ACTION WAS COUPLED WITH COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF ACTU
ENTERING PARTNERSHIP WITH WHOLLY-OWNED AUSTRALIAN RETAIL
PETROL COMPANY, WITH WHOM IT PLANS TO OFFER CUT-PRICE
PETROL, INITIALLY IN MELBOURNE AREA, BUT QUICKLY IN OTHER
CENTRES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

2. NATIONALISATION RESOLUTION WAS FIRST MOVE OF ANY MAJOR
UNIT WITHIN THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY TO FOCUS
SPECIFICALLY ON ONE SEGMENT OF AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY,
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ALTHOUGH NATIONALISATION HAS BEEN PART OF PARTY POLICY

FOR MANY YEARS.

3. COMMENT:

NATIONALISATION PROPOSAL WITHIN ACTU IS HARDLY NEWS. BUT IN PAST, SUCH RESOLUTIONS, GENERALLY SPONSORED BY RADICAL MINORITY, HAVE BEEN SLAPPED DOWN HARD BY TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, AS BEING IRRELEVANT. IN 1974, PROPOSAL BY LEFT-WING METAL WORKERS' UNION TO NATIONALISE AILING LELAND MOTOR CAR COMPANY WAS REJECTED OUT OF HAND, AS BEING COUNTER TO AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION, AND IMPOSSIBLE OF ATTAINMENT. YESTERDAY'S MOVE, THEREFORE, UNDERLINES GROWING FEELING THROUGHOUT LABOR MOVEMENT, LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE, THAT SOME FORM OF NATIONALISATION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY NECESSARY. LABATT ADDS THAT GOA PROPOSED ENTRY INTO INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES IN NATIONALISED HEALTH, IS RECEIVING SUPPORT WELL BEYOND LIMITS OF LABOR MOVEMENT. FUTURE LABOR NATIONALISATION MOVES WILL REFLECT, AS IN PRESENT CASE, ASSESSMENT OF POPULAR MOOD. HOWEVER, EVEN ACTU EXECUTIVE DOES NOT EXPECT QUICK MOVES TOWARDS NATIONALISATION OF OIL INDUSTRY AS ITS PROPOSAL, UNLIKE GOA ACTIONS IN INSURANCE AND MEDICINE, IS PRIMA FACIE UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND MUST BE PRECEDED BY AMENDMENTS. LABATT OBSERVES, GIVEN VOTING PUBLIC'S TRACK RECORD ON REFERENDA, THAT AMENDMENT BY THIS ROUTE IS DICEY STEEPLE CHASE.

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